

Matthew 5:1-12
Christlike Character II

Blessed ...

- I. Counting the Cost
 - A. Kingdom
 - B. Character
- II. Complete in Christ
 - A. Perfect
 - B. Substitute
- III. Coming to Grips
 - A. A Sense of Self
 - B. The Sinner's Prayer
- IV. Continuing to Grow
 - A. The Imprint of Jesus
 - B. The Saint's Prayer

... and satisfied.

Children, Listen ...

1. Why is important to see yourself as a sinner and tell that to God?
2. What will God do if you are honest with Him about our sin?
3. How were our sins against God punished?
4. We will never be perfect like Jesus, but we should want to be more like Jesus?
5. Are there things in your life that you want God to help you change? Ask God for help.

Beatitudes Accomplished & Applied

Last time we looked at two applications of the well-known Beatitudes. The first I would describe as "the cost." Jesus describes to his disciples and the crowd what it looks like to be a citizen of His Kingdom. The question we have to ask ourselves in response is: is this really what I want to look like and how I want to live? Blessedness only comes with humility – and each of the beatitudes requires just that. The second is what I would describe as "the substitute." We look at ourselves up against the character traits Jesus describes and we must admit that we fall short. If we are going to be fit for kingdom living but we can't meet the standards ourselves, we need a substitute to gain us entry. That is where the perfection of Jesus comes in. As we trust Him to fulfill the glory we fall short of and to answer the demands of the Law we have broken – so must we trust Him to measure up to the characteristics of Kingdom dwellers – and share that with us. Today we pick up on the idea of falling short of these standards. We will discover that the Beatitudes provide the basis for the "Sinner's Prayer." But this is not just about getting saved, it is about living for the Lord, being sanctified, walking in humility, pursuing holiness – in other words becoming more like Christ. The cost is great, count it – the Cross is sufficient, trust in Jesus – the confession is effective, bring it to God – the life of faith pursues Christlikeness, seek the Lord's grace to walk in His ways. If you want to know what true blessedness is, that is a satisfied soul, this is where you will find it.